

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SECDEF WASHDC
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INFO CSAF WASHDC
OSAF WASHDC
USNMR SHAPE BE
AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD
CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AB GE
CINCLANT NORFOLK VA
ESD HANSCOM AFB MA
HQ TAC LANGLEY AFB VA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 1295

CSAF FOR CVA, RD, ATF, RDP, XO

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, OCON, MILL, AWACS
SUBJ: B/GEN PIOTROWSKI'S AWACS BRIEFING IN DENMARK

SUMMARY: B/GEN PIOTROWSKI'S MOST INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION ON
AWACS OPERATIONS IN EUROPE, GIVEN TO LARGE GROUP OF DANISH
DEFENSE OFFICIALS, FEB 22, SHOULD HAVE CLEARLY ANSWERED ANY
REMAINING DANISH RESERVATIONS ON UTILITY OF THE AIRCRAFT IN
EUROPEAN DEFENSE STRUCTURE. DEFENSE OFFICIALS SHOULD NOW
HAVE CONVINCING SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS FOR DANISH PA-
RTICIPATION IN A PROCUREMENT DECISION IN TIME FOR MAY DPC.
END SUMMARY.

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1. FOLLOWING PROTOCOL VISIT WITH CHIEF OF DEFENSE JORGENSEN,
B/GEN PIOTROWSKI GAVE AN INFORMATIVE AND ENLIGHTENING BRIEFING
ON RESULTS OF AWACS EUROPEAN DEPLOYMENT EXERCISE TO A PACKED
HOUSE, WEDNESDAY, FEB 22. GENERAL PIOTROWSKI'S PROFESSIONAL
BRIEFING SHOULD HAVE LAID TO REST ANY QUESTIONS THE DANES MAY
HAVE HAD CONCERNING THE CAPABILITIES OF AWACS OR THE VALUE OF THE

SYSTEM TO THE DEFENSE OF DENMARK AND THE BALTIC. INTEREST IN THE AWACS PROJECT WAS VIVIDLY DEMONSTRATED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF HIGH-RANKING MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND DEFENSE STAFF PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE.

2. DENMARK'S PREVIOUS RESERVATIONS CONCERNING AWACS CENTERED ON THE QUESTIONS OF SURVIVABILITY, AVAILABILITY, AND COST. IMPLICIT IN THE COST QUESTION HAS BEEN AN INTERNAL EVALUATION OF THEIR ABILITY TO AFFORD AWACS IN LIGHT OF HEAVY F-16 COMMITMENTS AND A PERCEIVED REQUIREMENT FOR NATIONALLY-OWNED AND OPERATED LOW-LEVEL COASTAL RADARS. GEN PIOTROWSKI EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSED ALL QUESTIONS (EXCEPT COST, WHICH WAS NOT DISCUSSED) BY DEMONSTRATING THE INTERFACE CAPABILITY WITH PRESENT NADGE SYSTEM AND DRAMATIC ENHANCEMENT OF AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION TO COMMANDERS AT ALL LEVELS THROUGH T.V. DOWNTOWN CAPABILITY. THE SURVIVABILITY QUESTION WAS ONE AGAIN CLEARLY ANSWERED BY SHORT RESUME OF SURVIVABILITY TEST CONDUCTED IN NEVADA LAST YEAR.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THE COST OF AWACS TO DENMARK WAS NOT ADDRESSED, IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN EXPLICITLY CLEAR AFTER THIS EXCELLENT PRESENTATION THAT THE PROCUREMENT SHARE DENMARK IS BEING ASKED TO BEAR IS WELL WORTH THE BENEFITS DENMARK WILL DERIVE FROM AWACS. THE DIFFICULTY NOW WILL BE FOR MOD SOGAARD TO CONVINCING A RATHER RELUCTANT FOLKETING OF AWACS' VALUE TO DENMARK IN TIME FOR THE MAY DPC. WEDNESDAY'S BRIEFING, HOWEVER, CERTAINLY PROVIDED MINISTER SOGAARD'S KEY STAFF MEMBERS WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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NECESSARY INFORMATION TO SUPPORT AN ARGUMENT FOR DANISH PARTICIPATION IN AWACS PROCUREMENT.

4. GENL PIOTROWSKI'S BRIEFING WAS HELPFUL IN SUPPORTING OUR ONGOING EFFORTS IN COPENHAGEN TO ELICIT DANISH SUPPORT OF THIS MOST IMPORTANT NATO PROJECT. WE ENCOURAGE SIMILAR PRESENTATIONS ANYWHERE IN NATO WHERE THE OPERATIONAL UTILITY OF AWACS MAY BE OF SOME QUESTION WITHIN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE STAFFS.
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